

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 385

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC XF PFOR EI

SUBJ: US/EC CONSULTATIONS: EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE

SUMMARY: EC COORDINATION GROUP ON EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE HAS  
PRODUCED A TECHNICAL PAPER (PROTECT CAREFULLY) ON THE  
ECONOMIC MATTERS WHICH EUROPEANS PROPOSE DISCUSSING WITH  
ARABS. THE IRISH CONSIDER THE DOCUMENT STRAIGHTFORWARD,  
TECHNICAL, AND UNSURPRISING. A FEW COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL  
POINTS ARE GIVEN BELOW. PROBLEM OF PLO PARTICIPATION WAS  
NOT DISCUSSED AT ALL BY THE COORDINATION GROUP, BUT OUR  
SOURCE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE EC PROPOSAL FOR GETTING AROUND  
THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN PUT TO THE LEBANESE. END SUMMARY

1. EAMON GALLAGHER, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF IRISH FONOFF,  
BRIEFED US AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 28 ON MEETING HELD THE  
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PREVIOUS DAY BY EC COORDINATION GROUP ON EURO-ARAB

DIALOGUE. GALLAGHER CHAIRED THE MEETING.

2. MEETING PRODUCED "WORKING DOCUMENT" WHICH GALLAGHER GAVE TO US ON STRICT UNDERSTANDING THAT WE NEVER REVEAL FACT OF USG POSSESSION AT THIS EARLY DATE. FULL TEXT OF DOCUMENT IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. PLEASE PROTECT CAREFULLY.

3. ALL OF EC COORDINATION GROUP PARTICIPANTS HAVE APPROVED THE WORKING DOCUMENT WITHOUT RESERVATION. IT MUST, HOWEVER, BE SEEN BY EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHOSE APPROVAL IS EXPECTED TO BE A MATTER OF ROUTINE. FULL EC CLEARANCE SHOULD BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT WEEK, APPROXIMATELY MARCH 4. DOCUMENT SHOULD THEN BE HANDED TO ARABS BY END OF WEEK, APPROXIMATELY MARCH 7. IT WILL BE GIVEN TO RIYADH EITHER BY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO OR BY NEW IRISH AMBASSADOR, IF HE HAS PRESENTED CREDENTIALS BY THAT TIME.

4. GALLAGHER SAID THAT ARABS HAD ASKED EUROPEANS TO DO THIS FIRST INFORMAL TEXT, RECOGNIZING THAT THERE IS MORE EXPERTISE ON EUROPEAN SIDE. GALLAGHER STRESSED THAT TEXT IS QUITE INFORMAL AT THIS STAGE AND MAKES NO COMMITMENTS. IT DOES, HOWEVER, SET OUT IN SOME DETAIL THE KIND OF ECONOMIC MATTERS WHICH EUROPEANS CONSIDER APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION WITH ARABS. GALLAGHER CONSIDERS DOCUMENT TO BE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND TECHNICAL, WITH NO SURPRISES. FOLLOWING ARE HIS EXPLANATIONS OF SOME INDIVIDUAL POINTS IN DOCUMENT.

(A) DOCUMENT BEGINS WITH A REFERENCE TO "THE TWO PARTIES," THEY ARE, OF COURSE, UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE EUROPEANS AND ARABS. THIS FORMULATION WAS CHOSEN IN AN ATTEMPT TO STAY AS FAR FROM THE PLO PROBLEM AS POSSIBLE.

(B) AT SEVERAL PLACES IN DOCUMENT, THERE ARE REFERENCES TO JOINT EURO/ARAB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AIMED AT THIRD COUNTRIES. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO SINGLE SECTION DEVOTED TO THIS TOPIC. THE EUROPEAN INTENTION IS TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE ARABS TO KNOCK OUT ASSISTANCE TO THIRD COUNTRIES, WHICH EUROPEANS CONSIDER VERY IMPORTANT. IF ALL REFERENCES TO POOR THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTAINED IN ONE SECTION, ARABS COULD EASILY PROPOSE DELETION.

(C) AT END OF FINAL PARAGRAPH IN NUMBERED SECTION 2, THERE IS A LIST OF FIVE "SECTORS" IN WHICH EUROPEANS SUGGEST SPECIFIC PROJECTS. THESE SECTORS ARE THEN DESCRIBED IN MORE DETAIL IN THE FIVE FOLLOWING NUMBERED SECTIONS OF THE DOCUMENT (THREE THROUGH SEVEN). THE EUROPEANS ENVISAGE SEPARATE COMMITTEES FOR EACH OF THESE FIVE SECTORS. IT MAY, HOWEVER, BE NECESSARY TO CREATE FOUR OR SIX

COMMITTEES RATHER THAN FIVE, SO THAT CHAIRMANSHIPS MAY BE DIVIDED EVENLY BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND ARABS. THE FIVE SECTORS ARE: INDUSTRIALIZATION; AGRICULTURE AND FOOD; INFRASTRUCTURE; FINANCIAL COOPERATION; AND CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

(D) UNDER THE INDUSTRIALIZATION SECTOR (SECTION 3 OF PAPER), IRISH CALLED OUT ATTENTION TO THE SUBPARAGRAPH HEADED "LIGHT INDUSTRIES." GALLAGHER IS PROUD OF THIS CONTRIBUTION BECAUSE SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO GET INVOLVED. ARABS MIGHT BE INCLINED TO FAVOR BIG, GLAMOROUS PROJECTS IF LIGHT INDUSTRIES WERE NOT STRESSED.

(E) AT END OF SECTION 4 ON AGRICULTURE AND FOODSTUFFS, THERE IS A REFERENCE TO "THE FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." THE EUROPEANS INTEND THIS AS AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THE DOCUMENT GENERALLY AVOIDS REFERENCE TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, THE EUROPEANS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ARABS MUST BE INDUCED TO LOOK INTO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES.

(F) THE FIRST TWO PARAS UNDER SECTION 5 (INFRASTRUCTURE) MAY SEEM REPETITIVE, BUT THE FIRST IS AIMED AT LONG-TERM PROJECTS AND THE SECOND AT SHORT-TERM PROJECTS.

(G) STILL IN THE FIRST PARA OF SECTION 5, THE PHRASE "BULK TRANSPORT OF PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS" MEANS "PIPELINES." APPARENTLY THE FRENCH HAVE NO SINGLE WORD FOR PIPELINES.

(H) IN SECTION 6 (ON FINANCIAL COOPERATION), THERE IS A REF TO "EXAMINATION OF BEST WAYS AND MEANS TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT." THE EUROPEANS USED THIS PHRASE TO DESCRIBE INVESTMENT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT THE RECYCLING OF PETRODOLLARS.  
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TM WE ASKED GALLAGHER WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY DISCUSSION AT ALL ON PLO PROBLEM AT THE COORDINATION GROUP MEETING. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD NOT. HE UNDERSTANDS, HOWEVER, THAT THE EC PROPOSAL FOR GETTING AROUND THE PARTICIPATION PROBLEM WAS PUT TO THE LEBANESE (AS ARAB LEAGUE CHAIRMEN) LAST WEEK, AFTER THE TALK BETWEEN FONMIN FITZGERALD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER.  
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## Message Attributes

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